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Marlborough Borough.

Medical Officer's Annual Report for the Year 1938.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 19th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your District.

I am endeavouring to follow out the lines suggested in circular 1,728 issued by the Ministry of Health to you in October 1938. As modern Public Health matters are mostly under the control of the County Councils, this report must necessarily be confined mainly to statistics and sanitary administration, as only those matters with which you are concerned are dealt with.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

18 Victoria Road, Salisbury.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Census 1931: 3,492
Population—Estimated Mid 1938—4,678

Area, 1,496 Acres
Rateable Value: £34,890
Sum represented by Penny Rate: £139 12 10

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1938, 1,258.

Births, 1938.	Male.	Female.	Total.				Birth Rate, 1938.			England and Wales		
Live	33	25	58 (2 Illegitimate)	Live	12.3		Live			15.1		
Still	1	0	1 (0 „)	Still	0.2		Still			0.6		
				1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Birth Rate				11.9	9.6	11.4	7.89	14.2	8.4	11.2	12.3	12.5
England and Wales				14.9	14.8	14.7	14.8	14.4	15.3	15.8	16.3	16.3

Deaths: Males, 30. Females, 26. Total, 56.

			1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Death Rate	..	..	11.4	10.6	12.75	9.75	7.57	12.0	9.7	13.1	12.5	10.1
England and Wales	..	..	11.6	12.4	12.1	11.7	11.8	12.3	12.0	12.3	11.4	13.4

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age: Males 1. Females 0. Total, 1

			1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)			17.4	0	86.9	35.7	24	46.8	0	41.7	39.2	19.2
England and Wales	..	..	53	58	59	57	59	64	65	66	60	74
Deaths from Measles (all ages),	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
„ Diarrhoea (under two years)			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. of Women dying in consequence of												
Child Birth	..	..	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

The AREAL COMPARABILITY FACTOR .96.

STAFF.

Mr. H. C. Paine, M.Inst.M. and Cy.E. Sanitary Inspector's Cert. R.S.I. Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector. Commenced duty 1st June, 1938.

Mr. R. E. Hall, M.R.San.I. Additional Sanitary Inspector and Assistant to Borough Surveyor. Commenced duty 15th March, 1937. Sanitary Inspector's Certificate—R.S.I. and S.I.E. Jt. Board. Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate—R.S.I.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.				Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total deaths.
Scarlet Fever	3	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Enteric Fever	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0
Erysipelas	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	..	..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and up	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	..	..	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0

No action was taken by me with regard to Tuberculosis employees in the Milk trade.

No action was taken by the Council under Sec. 62 P.H.A., 1925.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever. Only three cases were notified, two at the beginning of the year and one at the end.

Diphtheria. No case of this disease was notified ; one doubtful case was admitted to the Hospital but this turned out not to be the disease.

Pneumonia. Three cases only were notified and none of these died.

With the exception of one case of measles which was admitted to the Hospital for isolation the above were all the notifiable diseases during the year so the Borough was exceptionally free from these diseases.

Tuberculosis. Two fresh cases were notified and of these one male died while the other death was a case notified in 1935.

Laboratory Facilities. Remain the same.

Marlborough Joint Isolation Hospital. For general information I give below the cases admitted to the above Hospital during the year.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	7	Measles	...	...	...	4
Diphtheria	...	...	2	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	1					—
Erysipelas	...	...	7	Total	...	...	...	22

Legislation in force.

- (1) Local Acts—None.
- (2) Special Orders—None.
- (3) General Adoptive Acts :
 - Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 :
 - Part 2.
 - Part 3. Sections 34—38 and 43—51.
 - Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 :
 - Part 3.
 - Public Health Act 1925—Section 44.

(4) Byelaws.

1. New Streets and Buildings.
2. Nuisances.
3. Cleansing Footways, Earth Closets, Privies and Cesspools.
4. Common Lodging Houses.
5. Slaughter houses.
6. Offensive Trades.
7. Good Rule and Government and for the prevention of Nuisances.

WATER.

During the year the main was extended 3in. in diameter along Elcot Lane from a point near the Roebuck Inn, London Road, to the end of Forest Dale Road, to replace an existing $\frac{3}{4}$ in. service pipe. This considerably improved the supply to property in Elcot Lane.

There are no pipe supplies other than public supplies. No shortage of water was experienced within the Borough of Marlborough during 1938.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year the Borough water supply was examined chemically once and bacteriologically monthly. The chemical analysis was as stated below while the bacteriological examination showed no B. Coli in every case. The Borough therefore has an excellent water supply.

Chemical.				Parts per 100,000	
Re-action	...	...	Alkaline P.H.	7.3	
Saline and Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.001
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (2 hours at 27° C.)					0.007
Chlorides	...	...	...	...	1.5
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	0.8
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	39.
(a) Temporary	...	...	...	...	33.
(b) Permanent	...	...	...	...	6.
Poisonous Metals	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrites	...	...	...	...	Nil
Microscopical examination of the Sediment			...		Nil

Drainage and Sewage.

During the year public sewers were provided to the village of Manton and new relief sewers constructed in certain areas of the Borough itself. In addition, considerable alterations were carried out to the sewage disposal works so as to render them more efficient and up-to-date.

Rivers and Streams.

The section of the River Kennet for which the Council is responsible was thoroughly cleaned out and weeded twice during the year and no nuisance was caused. Three written notices were served on owners requiring them to clean that part of the river bed for which they were responsible. These were complied with immediately.

The Thames Conservators brought to the notice of the Council a nuisance caused by the escape of soapy water from a surface water sewer. On investigation this was found to be caused by the tenants of a block of houses, using surface water gulleys as slop sinks. Informal notices were sent to the said tenants; this nuisance is now abated, but a watch is being kept to detect any re-occurrence of this.

Closet Accommodation.

One P.C. was converted to W.C. during the year 1938.

Water closets are provided to all but two of the Council Houses. The two houses referred to will shortly be connected to the public sewer at Manton and pail closets converted to water closets.

Public Cleansing. House refuse is collected once weekly by horse-drawn vehicles, and disposed of by controlled tipping at the Council's dump at Poulton.

There have been no extensions during the year 1938.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

	No. of Inspections.	No. of Defects.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Remedied by 3.	Remedied by 4.	Remedied after verbal instructions only
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nuisances	126	51	35	—	31	—	6
Slaughterhouses	48	4	—	—	—	—	4
Knacker's Yards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places where food is prepared	41	11	3	—	3	—	6
Cowsheds	40	5	3	—	3	—	1
Dairies and Milkstores							
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	7	1	—	—	—	—	—
Butchers' Shops	55	4	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	319	76	43	—	37	—	17

Tents, Vans, Sheds—Two Inspections were made and found satisfactory.

Milk and Dairies, etc.

Number of Wholesale Producers registered (1938)	..	..	—	5
„ Retail Purveyors registered (1938)	..	..	..	11
„ Certificates issued (Producers) during 1938	..	..	..	3
„ Certificates issued (Retailers) during 1938	..	..	..	4
Approximate number of Cows	..	..	..	97

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of Registered Slaughter-houses...	...	...	...	4
Number of Licensed Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	1
Notices received of Regular Slaughter	...	...	...	0
Notices received of Casual Slaughter	...	...	...	45
Number of Condemnations	...	...	...	62

Shops and Offices. No action was found necessary.

Camping Sites.

1. One site in London Road, was used occasionally during the year but only for very short periods.
2. No licences under Sec. 259 P.H.A. 1936 were issued.
3. Six persons was the maximum residing on the site at any one time during the year.

Smoke Abatement. One complaint in respect of an emission of grit from a chimney was received. On investigation this was proved to be due to the use of steam coal, and was rectified by using a more suitable coal. No other action was found necessary.

Swimming Bath. The public baths were taken over by the Council during the year and have been under constant observation during the summer. The water has been treated regularly with Chlorine and tested daily for free chlorine so that it is kept within the limits recommended by the Ministry of Health. The water is obtained from springs arising in the river Kennett

Eradication of Bed Bugs. No action was found necessary.

Milk Supply. All farms, cowsheds and retail dairies were regularly visited during the year. Some small defects were noticed and were rectified after informal notices.

One case of Scarlet Fever occurred in the family of a retail dairyman, and the sale and bottling of milk was forbidden from his premises for seven days.

Meat and Other Foods.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed (if known)	124	2	135	350	810
Number Inspected	102	2	107	260	624
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcases Condemned	2	—	—	7	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	—	—	3	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	7%	—	—	4%	3%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole Carcases condemned	3	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	13	—	—	—	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	15%	50%	—	—	3%

The number of animals killed is an approximate number.

As far as is possible, all animals which are notified as being due for slaughter are inspected both anti and post mortem.

During the year some of the butchers who carry out occasional slaughter during the weekdays outside their regular slaughtering days have failed to give the necessary notice, and consequently some carcasses were not inspected. All the butchers now have received a copy of the P.H. (Meat) Regulations and are getting used to its provisions. They all carry on a high-class meat trade, and a verbal notice is sufficient to rectify any failures to comply with the Regulations.

Some difficulty is still experienced in getting the butchers' and their assistants to comply with the provisions of the Council's Slaughterhouse Bye-laws with regard to general cleanliness.

Housing. The work of Inspection and reporting on the housing conditions of the Town is still proceeding.

HOUSING ACTS, 1909—1936.

Statement of Work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1938, under the above Acts, in the Borough of Marlborough.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	61
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	146
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	24
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	34
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	34

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	24
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	1
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	3
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
	(Order made previous year)

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	6
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	6
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	41 Adults 4 Children
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	4
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	17 Adults 7 Children
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	Nil.
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.	

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.			M.	F.
All Causes	...	...	30	26
1 Typhoid fever, etc.	...	...
2 Measles	...	...
3 Scarlet fever	...	...
4 Whooping cough	...	...
5 Diphtheria	...	...
6 Influenza	...	...
7 Encephalitis lethargica...	...	...
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...
9 Respiratory tuberculosis	...	...	1	1
10 Other tuberculous	...	...
11 Syphilis	...	...
12 General paralysis of the insane, etc.	...	...
13 Cancer	...	...		1
14 Diabetes	...	...	1	
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage	...	...	4	
16 Heart disease	...	...	6	13
17 Aneurysm	...	...

Causes of death.			M.	F.
18 Other circulatory	...	...	2	5
19 Bronchitis	...	...		1
20 Pneumonia	...	...
21 Other respiratory	...	...
22 Peptic Ulcer	...	...		1
23 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...
24 Appendicitis	...	...	1	
25 Cirrhosis of liver	...	...
26 Other diseases of liver,	...	...	1	
27 Other digestive	...	...
28 Nephritis	...	...	2	
29 Puerperal sepsis...	...	...
30 Other puerperal	...	...
31 Congenital causes, etc.	...	...	1	
32 Senility	...	...	2	2
33 Suicide	...	...
34 Other violence	...	...
35 Other defined causes	...	...	9	2

Causes of death.			M.	F.
36 Ill-defined causes	...	...
Special Causes (included in No. 35)				
Small-pox	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...
Polioencephalitis	...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—				
Total	...	...		1
Legitimate	...	...
Illegitimate	...	...		1
Live Births				
Total	...	...	33	25
Legitimate	...	...	32	24
Illegitimate	...	...	1	1
Stillbirths				
Total	...	...		1
Legitimate	...	...		1
Illegitimate	...	...
Population				4,678

